

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS

California's Investment and Financing Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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California Department of Corporations Joins Nationwide Program to Help Streamline Franchise Review and Registration Process

Coordinated Approval Process Will Increase Efficiency for California Businesses and State Regulators

Sacramento, February 19, 2004 --- The California Department of Corporations today announced its participation in the Coordinated Franchise Review Program, a nationwide effort designed to streamline the review of franchise registrations by allowing franchisors to simultaneously obtain review of their application in multiple states.

Established by the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), the Coordinated Franchise Review Program will streamline and create a more efficient franchise registration process. Once an initial registration application is filed in all participating states where the sale of franchises will be offered, review and comment will be completed for all participating states by a single designated lead state. Additionally, the Coordinated Franchise Review will increase ease and efficiency to business franchises and state regulators by:

- Promoting a uniform and efficient review of initial franchise registrations
- Providing a more predictable time frame for registrations in multiple states
- Eliminating duplicate regulatory review and resources
- Producing uniform disclosure

A copy of the Commissioner's Release is attached.

The Department of Corporations is California's Investment and Financing Authority, reporting to the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and the Governor. The Department is responsible for the regulation, enforcement and licensing of securities, franchises, off-exchange commodities, investment and financial services, independent escrows, consumer and commercial finance lending and residential mortgage lending. For further information or to obtain a complaint form, see the Department's Web site at www.corp.ca.gov or call 1-866-ASK-CORP (1-866-275-2677).